

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01950 051146Z

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ACTION TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5575

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FROM THE AMBASSADOR FOR SECRETARY SIMON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.), IT

SUBJECT: VISIT BY SECRETARY SIMON

REF: STATE 25051

1. I AM DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT YOU WILL BE STOPPING NEXT MONTH IN ROME, EVEN IF BRIEFLY, ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM YOUR TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT YOU AND MRS. SIMON WILL BE ABLE TO STAY WITH US AT THE VILLA. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HOST A DINNER FOR YOU ON MARCH 9.

2. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ENVISAGE ROME AS BEING ESSENTIALLY A REST STOP WITH A CALL ON THE POPE, IF THAT CAN BE ARRANGED, AND ON TREASURY MINISTER COLOMBO, ASSUMING HE IS STILL IN OFFICE. WHILE I CAN WELL APPRECIATE THAT YOU WILL HAVE HAD A STRENUOUS TWO WEEKS, I WOULD HOPE NONETHELESS THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO PERSUADE YOU TO BROADEN SOMEWHAT THE SCOPE OF YOUR VISIT.

3. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE ALL VERY CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALY AND YOU KNOW THAT STRONG LINE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HENRY KISSINGER HAVE TAKEN AGAINST ENTRY OF THE COMMUNISTS INTO GOVERNMENT HERE. THEREFORE, WHENEVER WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY HIGH-LEVEL VISITS SUCH AS YOURS,

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PAGE 02 ROME 01950 051146Z

WE WOULD LIKE TO MAXIMIZE THE VISIBILITY AND INTEREST SHOWN

BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

4. SINCE THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION HERE IS IN FLUX THESE DAYS, WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE PLANS ON A SOMEWHAT TENTATIVE BASIS. HOWEVER, WHAT I HAVE IN MIND IS A MEETING WITH THE PRESS AND/OR A MEETING WITH TOP-LEVEL POLITICAL/BUSINESS/ FINANCIAL LEADERS, WITH TIMING DEPENDING ON YOUR CALLS ON COLOMBO AND THE POPE. WE WOULD ALSO BE VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE GERALD PARSKY PARTICIPATE IN SOME ACTIVITIES; PERHAPS THESE COULD BE IN PART SEPARATE FROM YOURS.

5. I HOPE THAT THIS REQUEST WILL NOT BE TOO MUCH OF AN IMPOSITION AND WILL NOT CUT DOWN UNDULY ON OTHER PLANS YOU MAY HAVE. IF YOU ARE AGREEABLE IN PRINCIPLE, WE CAN MOVE AHEAD AND WORK OUT SOME SPECIFICS. MANY THANKS AND BEST REGARDS.
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